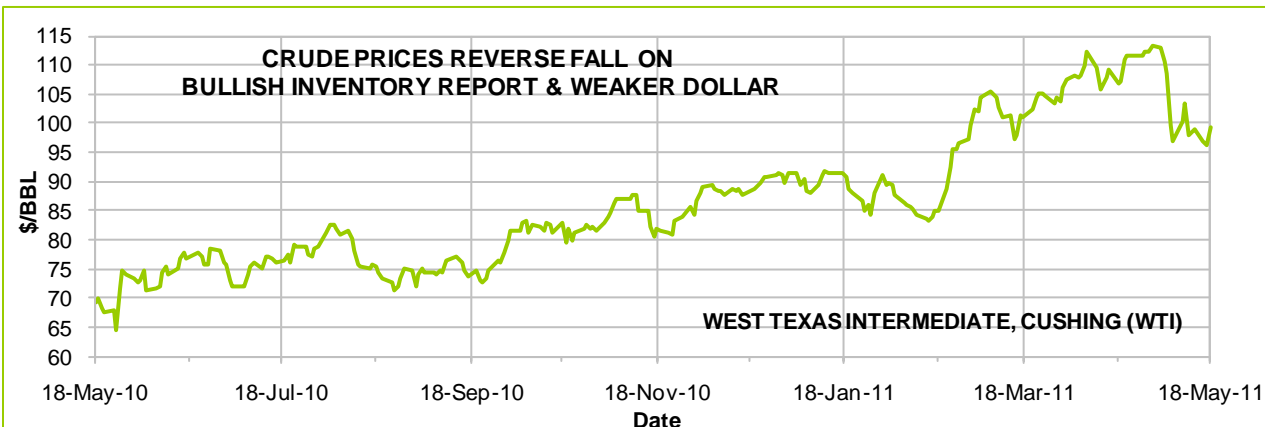


Crude Oil



After growing by 13 million barrels over the previous 3 weeks, crude inventories fell by 15,000 barrels this past week. This was in sharp contrast to an expected gain of 1.5 million but the loss was much less than the 5-year average decline of 0.9 million. Inventories have worsened to 2.1% above last year but have improved to 6.2% above the 5-year average. Inventories are at their third highest level ever for this date.

A bullish inventory report, a weaker dollar, and stronger than expected gasoline demand sent prices higher this week. Futures and spot prices rose by \$1.89 and \$1.64 for the week after falling by \$14 over the previous 2 weeks. Futures prices settled at \$101.14, \$24.96 (32.8%) higher than a year ago. Spot prices rose to \$99.40, \$30.04 (43.3%) higher than last year. Futures prices are \$45.30 (30.9%) below their 2008 peak. Spot prices are \$45.88 (31.6%) below their 2008 peak.

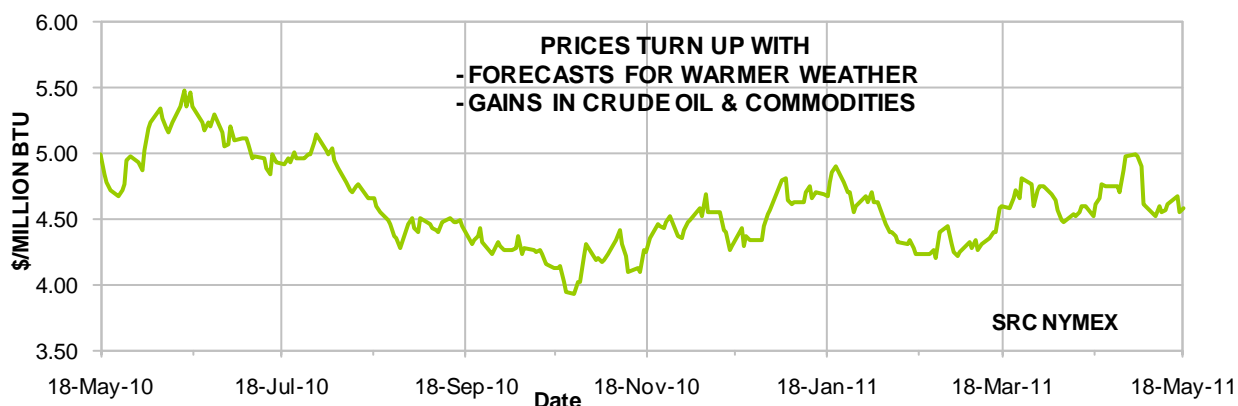


Natural gas



Natural gas inventories grew by 92 BCF this past week. This was slightly more than the expected 91 BCF gain and the 5-year average gain of 90 BCF. With a stock injection of 79 BCF for this time period last year, this week's 1,919 BCF inventory level improved to 10.9% below last year's record high level and to 1.9% below the 5-year average. Cumulative injections this year are running 32.5% below last year and 14.0% below the 5-year average.

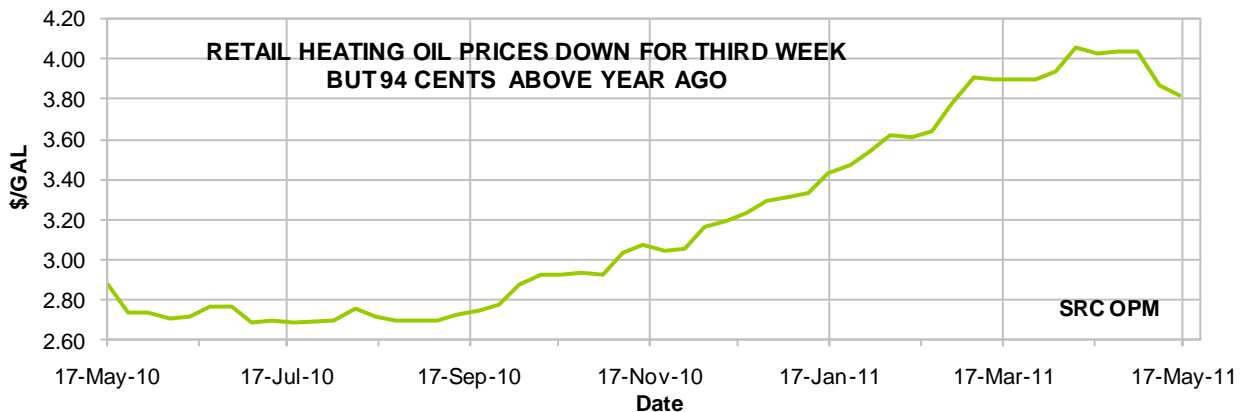
Futures prices rose this week from forecasts for hotter weather and increased cooling demand. Natural gas futures prices settled at \$4.580, 41.4 cents (8.3%) lower than a year ago and 65.6% below their 2008 peak. Spot prices fell by 7.0 cents for the week as weather related demand was less than normal. At \$4.150 per million BTU, prices are 27.0 cents (6.1%) lower than a year ago and they are 68.8% below their 2008 peak. According to census data, 31% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with natural gas.





Inventories fell by 1.2 million barrels this past week as declines in production and imports offset a decline in demand. The 5-year average is a gain of 0.4 million and expectations were for a gain of 0.7 million. Inventories are at their third highest level ever for this date. At 11.3% above the five-year average they trail only 2009 and 2010.

Futures prices rose 1.1 cents this week and settled at \$2.974/gal, 88.9 cents (42.7%) above last year but \$1.221 (29.1%) below 2008's peak. Spot prices fell by 2.3 cents. They settled at \$2.878/gal, \$0.922 (47.1%) above last year but \$1.201 (29.4%) below the 2008 peak. Retail prices fell by 4.2 cents this week and by 21.1 cents over the past 3 weeks. Prices are now at \$3.823/gal, \$0.944 (32.8%) above a year ago. Prices are \$0.944 (19.8%) below their 2008 peak. The highest price in this week's survey was \$4.499 and the lowest was \$3.299. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil.



Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices

	FAIRFIELD			HARTFORD			NEW LONDON		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
17-May-10	3.025	3.599	2.500	2.827	3.199	2.499	2.969	3.599	2.699
2-May-11	4.143	4.799	3.740	4.042	4.399	3.649	3.925	4.070	3.690
9-May-11	3.966	4.549	3.540	3.904	4.399	3.449	3.728	4.040	3.380
16-May-11	3.936	4.499	3.540	3.864	4.399	3.299	3.670	3.850	3.370
	LITCHFIELD			MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM		
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW
17-May-10	2.817	2.899	2.699	2.934	3.099	2.790	2.799	2.929	2.669
2-May-11	4.043	4.149	3.899	4.108	4.199	3.940	3.911	3.999	3.789
9-May-11	3.851	3.989	3.599	3.941	4.099	3.690	3.751	3.899	3.539
16-May-11	3.781	3.849	3.659	3.869	3.999	3.540	3.736	3.899	3.589
	NEW HAVEN								
	AVG	HIGH	LOW						
17-May-10	2.805	2.999	2.590						
2-May-11	3.986	4.269	3.679						
9-May-11	3.808	4.199	3.359						
16-May-11	3.775	4.099	3.329						

OPM conducts a weekly survey of retail heating oil prices in Connecticut. These figures reference the most recent results of that survey for the reporting week beginning May 16, 2011. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

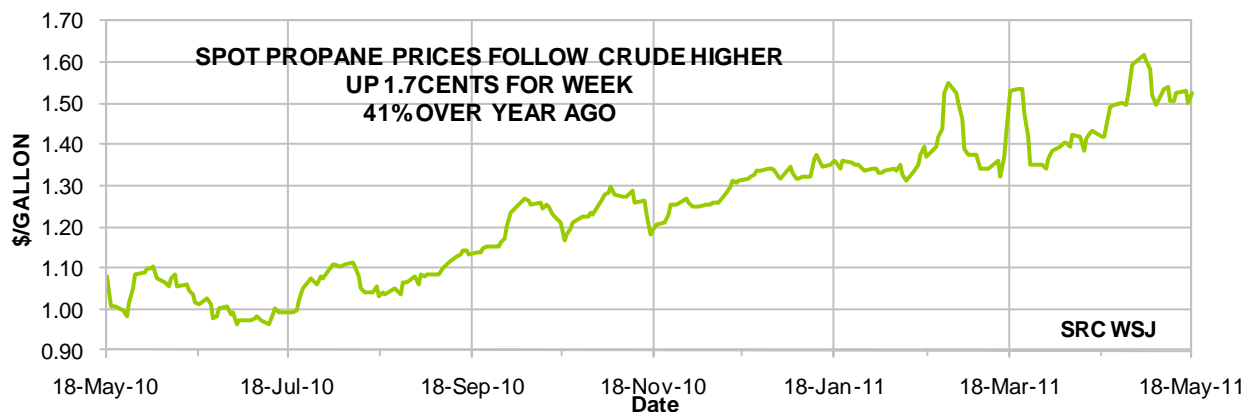
For more information, see www.ct.gov/OPM > Energy Management > Energy Price and Supply Information

Propane



Inventories rose by 1.717 million barrels this week as an increase in imports and a fall in demand offset a decline in production. This week's inventory growth equals the 5-year average weekly gain of 1.705 million barrels and is almost twice last year's gain of 0.891 million. Inventories are now 22.7% less than last year and 19.4% below the 5-year average.

Spot propane prices followed crude oil prices upward this past week, rising by 1.7 cents/gallon after falling by 7.6 cents last week and increasing by 24.4 cents over the previous 5 weeks. At \$1.525 per gallon, spot prices are 44.4 cents (41.1%) higher than a year ago but they are 23.0% lower than their peak 2008 price. The usual reporting of Connecticut retail propane heating prices has been discontinued for the season but will resume in October. According to census data, propane is used to heat 2.7% of homes in Connecticut.



Gasoline



Following 11 weeks of decline, inventories grew by 1.3 million barrels last week. They grew by a scant 0.1 million this week as growth in demand and a decline in imports minimized the growth in production. Growth of 0.95 million had been expected. Inventories levels have improved slightly to 7.2% below last year and to only 0.9% less than the 5-year average.

Futures and spot prices have fallen by 35 and 47 cents/gal over the past 3 weeks as they followed earlier declines in crude oil prices. Futures are at \$2.815, \$0.809 (40.3%) higher than last year but \$0.796 (22.0%) below their 2008 peak. Spot prices fell to \$2.857/gal. They are \$0.901 (46.0%) higher than a year ago. Spot prices are 16.3% (\$0.555) below their 2008 peak. Connecticut retail prices fell 1.5 cents this week. At \$4.253, prices are \$1.194 (39.0%) higher than a year ago. They had risen by \$1.281 in the past 6 months. They are only 13.7 cents below their 2008 all time high of \$4.390.

